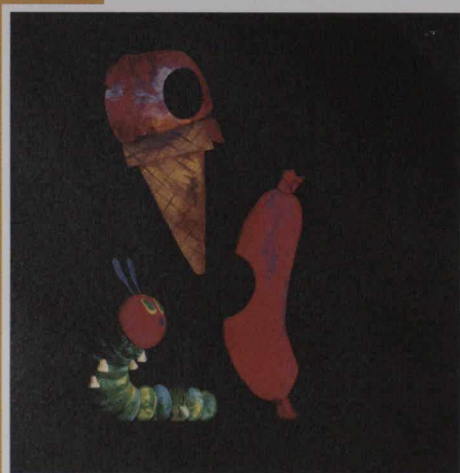


CANADIAN THEATRE

A STAR PERFORMER

Theatre is front and centre in Canada's efforts to reach across international boundaries and highlight our country's creativity and artistic expression. The Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) funds Canadian theatre festivals, including the World Stage Festival in Toronto (Ontario), Les Coups de Théâtre in Montreal (Quebec) and the Vancouver International Children's Festival (British Columbia). It also supports the Playwrights Union of Canada and the Centre des auteurs dramatiques in order to promote Canadian theatre at home and abroad. And it facilitates international tours for many Canadian theatre companies, including Théâtre UBU (appearances at Scotland's Edinburgh Festival and in Taiwan), the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (France) and the Manitoba Theatre for Young People (Asia).

- In its three decades, Nova Scotia's Mermaid Theatre has introduced more than 2.5 million children on four continents to the magic of live theatre. Last fall, Mermaid presented *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Quiet Cricket* at the Cervantino Festival in Mexico. The company was also featured at the 2002 Taipei Children's Arts Festival. In 2001, Mermaid Theatre won a prestigious Canada Export Award in recognition of its international success. For its 30th anniversary it will perform in 6 Canadian provinces, 21 U.S. states plus Washington, D.C., Mexico, Vietnam, Taiwan and Japan—its most extensive tour ever.
- Based in Edmonton, Alberta, Catalyst Theatre has garnered over 30 awards and nominations for its productions. In 1999, its *House of Pootsie Plunket* won two prizes at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2001, DFAIT helped it bring its musical production *Blue Orphan* to the Festival.
- Robert Lepage is one of contemporary theatre's most talented directors. Among his notable productions are *Vinci*, which won the *Prix Coup de Pouce* at the Festival d'Avignon in France. His company, Ex Machina, is a multidisciplinary group bringing together actors, writers, set designers, technicians, opera singers, puppeteers, computer graphic designers, video artists, film producers, contortionists and musicians. With DFAIT support, Ex Machina has been touring abroad with its
- Founded in 1973, Les Deux Mondes has created a score of spectacles and performed nearly 3,000 shows in more than 200 cities on five continents. The Montreal-based theatre group also participated in the 2002 Cervantino Festival, presenting *Mémoire vive*—one of its many original stage productions to win international acclaim. This past January it presented *Mémoire vive* in Hong Kong and Macau, China.



Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's dramatization of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, based on the children's classic by Eric Carle

Michael Scholar Jr. (lying down) and Sheri Somerville in *Blue Orphan*, performed by Edmonton's Catalyst Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2001



photo: Dwight Dempsey

photo: Ellis Brothers Photography